

HOUSE BILL 1393

L2

4lr2935

By: **St. Mary's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2014

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **St. Mary's County – John Hanson Briscoe Circuit Courthouse**

3 FOR the purpose of renaming the St. Mary's County Circuit Courthouse, located in
4 Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, the John Hanson Briscoe Circuit Courthouse;
5 and generally relating to the renaming of the St. Mary's County Circuit
6 Courthouse, located in Leonardtown, St. Mary's County.

7 BY adding to

8 The Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County

9 Section 19–3.

10 Article 19 – Public Local Laws of Maryland

11 (2007 Edition and February 2013 Supplement, as amended)

12 Preamble

13 WHEREAS, Judge John Hanson Briscoe was elected in 1962 to the Maryland
14 House of Delegates, where he represented St. Mary's County and served as Chair of
15 the Natural Resources Committee, the Environmental Matters Committee, and the
16 Ways and Means Committee before he was elected Speaker of the House of Delegates
17 in 1973; and

18 WHEREAS, As a legislator, Judge Briscoe was instrumental in the passage of
19 State civil rights laws, the expansion of Point Lookout State Park, and the creation of
20 Greenwell State Park and the College of Southern Maryland; and

21 WHEREAS, Judge Briscoe was respected for his powers of persuasion and
22 mediation and served as Speaker of the House of Delegates from 1973 until his
23 retirement in 1979; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Judge Briscoe was appointed in 1985 to the St. Mary's County
2 Circuit Court, 7th Judicial Circuit, where he served with distinction until his
3 retirement in 2002; and

4 WHEREAS, Judge Briscoe made historic and environmental preservation
5 central tenets of his career; and

6 WHEREAS, Judge Briscoe spearheaded erosion mediation efforts to save St.
7 Clement's Island, the birthplace of Maryland; and

8 WHEREAS, As President of the Historic Sotterley Foundation, Judge Briscoe
9 dedicated himself to establishing Sotterley Plantation as a National Historic
10 Landmark and to preserving Sotterley Plantation as a vital public museum and
11 educational site; and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Judge Briscoe demonstrated an exceptional
13 level of selfless service and essential humanity and decency, ensuring that his
14 compassion and commitment would remain as a lasting legacy to the people of St.
15 Mary's County and the State of Maryland; and

16 WHEREAS, The General Assembly wishes to express its profound respect for,
17 and deep gratitude to, Judge John Hanson Briscoe, and to name the St. Mary's County
18 Circuit Courthouse in his honor, and in honor of his service to St. Mary's County and
19 the State of Maryland; now, therefore,

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article 19 – St. Mary's County**

23 **19-3.**

24 **THE CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 41605 COURTHOUSE DRIVE,**
25 **LEONARDTOWN, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, SHALL BE RENAMED THE**
26 **JOHN HANSON BRISCOE CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE.**

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2014.